

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PHNOM 07467 231135Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 231105Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2231

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SAIGON IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC IMMEDIATE

USSAG IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T PHNOM PENH 7467

EXDIS

STATE PASS IMMEDIATE CJCS, SECDEF

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, CB, AS, UK

SUBJECT: PROJECTED DEPARTURE OF DEPENDENTS OF BRITISH AND
AUSTRALIAN OFFICIALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO BRITISH
AND AUSTRALIN NON-OFFICIALS COMMUNITIES TO EVACUATE
PHNOM PENH

1. BECAUSE OF THE CONTINUING ENEMY PRESSURE SOUTH AND
SOUTHWEST OF PHNOM PENH, PARTICULARLY ON THE APPROACHES
TO THE MAIN AMMUNITION DUMP AND POCHENTONG AIRPORT,
THE BRITISH AND AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADORS ARE INSTRUCTING
THEIR OFFICIAL DEPENDENTS AND ADVISING NON-OFFICIAL
BRITISH AND AUSTRALIAN SUBJECTS TO MAKE USE OF
COMMERCIAL FACILITIES TO DEPART PHNOM PENH BY AIR UNITL
THE SITUATION IN THE ENVIRONS OF THE CAPITAL IMPORVES.
THEY WERE BRIEFED BY DATT COLONEL BURNELL AND DISCUSSED
THE MATTER WITH ME BEFORE REACHING A DECISION THIS
AFTERNOON TO FOLLOW THIS COURSE OF ACTION.

2. THE CONTINUING RETREAT OF FANK FORCES INTO A
NARROWER AND NARROWER PERIMETER SOUTH AND SOUTHWEST
OF THE CAPITAL HAS BECOME A MAJOR SOURCE OF CONCERN,

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 PHNOM 07467 231135Z

AND WHILE THERE IS STILL A REASONABLE POSSIBILITY THAT

FANK CAN STABILIZE THE PERIMETER, WE HAVE ABOUT GIVEN UP HOPE THAT IT CAN EXTEND IT TO THE PREK THNAOT RIVER IN THE AREA SOUTHWEST OF THE CAPITAL.

3. I HAVE ASKED FOR A MEETING WITH MARSHAL LON NOL, OTHER MEMEBERS OF THE HIGH POLITICAL COUNCIL, AND LEADING MILITARY PERSONALITIES FOR TOMORROW MORNING, HAVING IN MIND AT THIS MEETING, WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF BGEN CLELAND AND COLONEL BURNELL, TO STRESS OUR CONCERN OVER THE SITUATION AND THE NECESSITY OF IMMEDIATE STABILIZING ACTION BY FANK. IT APPEARS TO US THAT MANY FANK UNITS ARE NOT IN CONTACT WITH THE ENEMY AND AS A RESULT HAVE INSUFFICIENT INFORMATION TO MAKE MAXIMUM EFFECTIVE USE OF THE U.S. COMBAT AIR SUPPORT WHICH IS AMPLY AVAILABLE. BGEN CLELAND AND MAJOR GENERAL SOSTHENE FERNANDEZ HAVE CONFERRED TODAY WITH GENERAL VOGT IN NAKHOM PHANOM ON GENERAL MEASURES TO RECTIFY THE SITUATION, AND WE WILL ALSO MAKE USE OF THOSE AT TOMORROW'S MEETING.

4. SOME WEEKS AGO I REPEATED EARLIER SUGGESTIONS TO THE AMERICAN NON-OFFICIAL COMMUNITY THAT FOLLOWING OUR EXAMPLE THEY EVACUATE DEPENDENTS AND LEAVE PHNOM PENH IF THEIR PRESENCE IS NOT ESSENTIAL HERE. UNLESS YOU INSTRUCT ME TO THE CONTRARY I SHALL REPEAT THESE SUGGESTIONS TO THEM TOMORROW, POINTING OUT THAT THEY SHOULD AS A MATTER OF PRUDENCE TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE COMMERCIAL FACILITIES WHICH ARE STILL AVAILABLE.
SWANK

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COMMUNISTS, DEPENDENTS, AIRPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 JUL 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973PHNOM07467
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: P750007-2257
From: PHNOM PENH
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730715/aaaaakvz.tel
Line Count: 89
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 NOV 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19-Nov-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <14-Dec-2001 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PROJECTED DEPARTURE OF DEPENDENTS
TAGS: MOPS, CB, AS, UK, (BURNELL)
To: n/a
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005